OUR WORLDS AT WAR
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SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS
ALL-OUT WAR!
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I'M HERE. AFRICA. CLOSEST ONE...
...THE DEVICE HAS ALREADY BROKEN THE CRUST. ENGAGING.
JOHN HENRY IRONS IS DEAD.
ARTHUR IS... I THINK HE'S DEAD TOO.
I... ARE YOU READING? WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?
DIANA... IF I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS LOOKING AT... MEAT. MEAT THE COLOR OF RED CLAY.
IS THIS DOING ANYTHING?
JOHN'S HEART RUSTLED LIKE A LEATHER BAG UNDER IT'S LAST BEAT.
THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF ARTHUR BUT THE SMELL AND A SLICK ON THE WATER. MACKEREL. NO... YELLOWTAIL.
MY PARENTS ARE MISSING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, AND I KEEP THINKING I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING.
NOW THERE'S A BUG IN MY EAR.

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# THOUSAND YARD STARE

SUPERMAN created by: JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

"SUPERMAN? SUPERMAN? WE LOST HIM *AGAIN, SIR.*"

"TEST THE LINK-UP! HE'S BEING *JAMMED, OR* --"

"*MAJOR LANE,* IT'S *NOT* THE *LINK, SIR.* IT'S *HIM.* HE JUST STOPS TALKING ALL OF A SUDDEN. THEN HE *SAYS* THINGS...

"...THEY DON'T MAKE *SENSE.* I THINK HE'S --"

"YOU STOP THAT THOUGHT *DEAD IN YOUR THROAT, SOLDIER,* OR I'LL *SHOVE* IT BACK DOWN *MYSELF. THAT'S SUPERMAN,* FOR PITY'S SAKE. *CHECK THE DAMN LINK!*"

"I HEAR HE'S *CRIPPLED* THE CONSTRUCT IN *ANTARCTICA.* DID HE *ACKNOWLEDGE* THE TARGET IN AFRICA?"

"NO SIR, NOT *VERBALLY.* NOT UNTIL *AFTER* HE ENGAGED IT, AND THEN...

"...HE *FORGOT* WHAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO DO. HE COULDN'T RECITE THE ORDER."

"IN YOUR *PROFESSIONAL ESTIMATION, MAJOR LANE...* JUST HOW BAD IS HE?"

"*BEFORE* THIS OP, HE WAS GOING ON ABOUT *APOKOLIPS. MAYBE DARKSEID* PULLED SOMETHING..."

"ALL HE DID WAS SHOW HIS *TRUE COLORS.* THE *PRESIDENT* KNOWS HOW TO PLAY *DARKSEID.*"

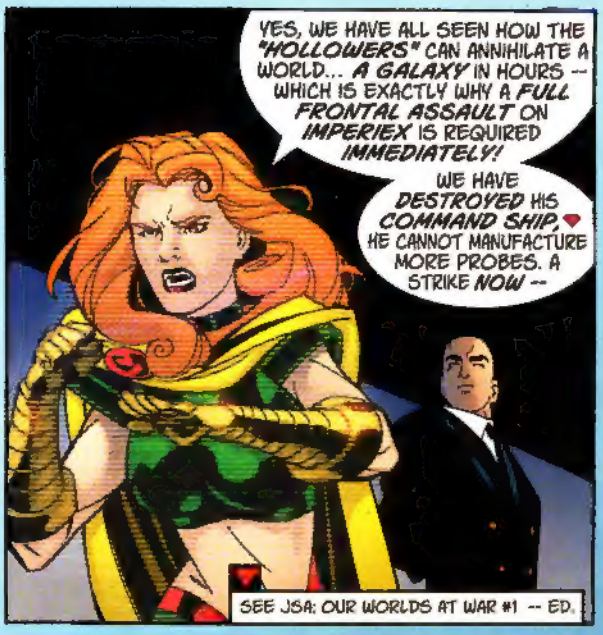
"I'M JUST *SAYING, MAJOR,* THAT *MAYBE* SUPERMAN'S *BEHAVIOR* IS A RESULT --"

"YOU'RE NOT SAYING *ANYTHING* TO *ANYONE* ABOUT SUPERMAN. *IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?*"

JOE KELLY writer
KANO penciller

MARLO ALQUIZA inker | ROB SCHWAGER colors | COMIC CRAFT letters | TOM PALMER jr ass't editor | EDDIE BERGANZA editor

THE WHITE HOUSE...
...
SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM BELIEVE I AM MAKING A MISTAKE.
I COULD THROW THE SAME STONES, COULDN'T I, MISTER 'SEID?
THE SCION OF APOKOLIPS MAKES NO APOLOGIES, GNAT.
I WILL PREVAIL --
YES.. YOU WILL.. IF YOU CEASE WITH YOUR PETTY POWER PLAYS AND PAY EXPLICIT ATTENTION.
VERIDIUM...
AHEM! YES, WELL, AS FAR AS I CAN DETERMINE WITH THE LIMITED INTELLIGENCE AVAILABLE...
...THE IMPERIEX CONSTRUCTS ARE COMPOSED OF MACHINE COLONIES...
...THAT MATE AND GIVE BIRTH TO SMALLER, BETTER MACHINERY AS THEY EVOLVE.
EACH CRÈCHE CONTINUES TO WORK AND MATE, AND SO ON. VOLUMETRIC EXPANSION AT AN EXPONENTIAL RATE.
TELEMETRY JUST REPORTED THE ONE IN RUSSIA IS THE SIZE OF TEXAS AND MEXICO COMBINED.
YESTERDAY, IT WAS AS BIG AS A BASKETBALL.
AT THE CURRENT RATE OF GROWTH, ALL EIGHT "HOLLOWERS" WILL CONNECT IN THREE DAYS...
...AND THAT WOULD BE BAD. VERY BAD.


YES, WE HAVE ALL SEEN HOW THE "HOLLOWERS" CAN ANNIHILATE A WORLD... A GALAXY IN HOURS -- WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY A FULL FRONTAL ASSAULT ON IMPERIEX IS REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY!
WE HAVE DESTROYED HIS COMMAND SHIP, HE CANNOT MANUFACTURE MORE PROBES. A STRIKE NOW --
SEE JSA: OUR WORLDS AT WAR #1 -- ED.

A STRIKE NOW, MAXIMA, WILL NOT ONLY MEAN THE DESTRUCTION OF EVERYTHING IN THIS GALAXY INCLUDING THE ALIEN ARMADA AND APOKOLIPS...
...BUT THE UTTER END OF THE UNIVERSE, AS WELL, HAMILTON...

THERE ARE SIGNS IN THEORETICAL MATH THAT IMPLY THE UNIVERSE IS LAYERED WELL BEYOND THE KNOWN ELEVEN DIMENSIONS --
-- TWELVE AND A THIRD --
-- THIS "MULTIVERSE" HAS COLLAPSED AND BEEN REBORN...
...PERHAPS MORE THAN ONCE. WE CANNOT SAY WITH CERTAINTY.

ONE THING WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER...
...IS THAT IT HAPPENS RIGHT HERE.
"HAPPENED" IF YOU HAVE A LIMITED GRASP OF FLUID SPACE TIME.
EARTH IS THE NEXUS FOR THE COLLAPSED REALITIES.
THE LINCHPIN THAT HOLDS THE CURRENT UNIVERSE TOGETHER.
COPERNICUS IS ROLLING OVER IN HIS GRAVE, BUT THE MATHEMATICS DO NOT LIE.

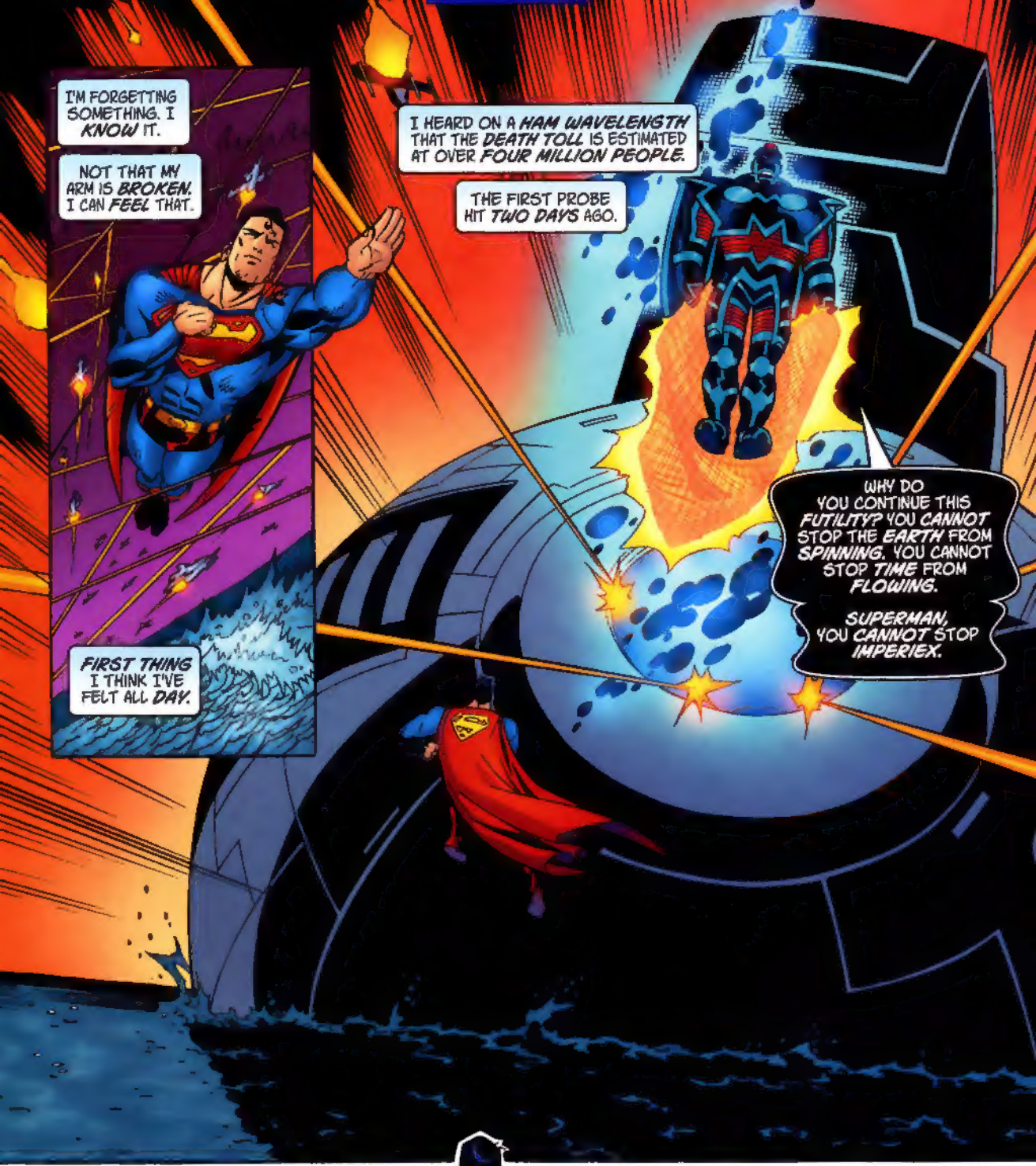
GREAT ALMERAC... SO THE BEAST HAS AN AGENDA. IT'S DISSECTING THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSE?
THE SLUG VERIFIES WHAT APOKOLIPS SCIENCE HAS ALSO DETERMINED.
SHOULD IMPERIEX ACTIVATE HIS HOLLOWER --
IT'S THE NEXT BIG BANG ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY BILLION YEARS EARLY.

WHEN EXACTLY, SIR, DID YOU PLAN TO TELL ME YOU KNEW HOW THE CONSTRUCTS WERE MEANT TO WORK?
EXACTLY AT THIS MOMENT, GENERAL ROCK, WHEN IT BEST SUITED THE MISSION.
ANY OTHER "SURPRISES" IN STORE FOR ME... SIR?
YES... SOLDIER.

I HAVE DEVISED A STRATAGEM TO STOP IMPERIEX... PERMANENTLY.
A PLAN THAT WILL SAVE NOT ONLY THIS WORLD, BUT INFINITE OTHERS.
HOWEVER, THIS WILL BE NO SIMPLE TASK. THE EXECUTION OF THIS PLOY REQUIRES SACRIFICE... FOCUS... FAITH...
...THE UNCOMPROMISING COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF MY ALLIES —
SIR?

I JUST GOT WORD...BOGEYS HEADED THIS WAY.
OF COURSE. IMPERIEX HAS BEEN HURT. HIS SHIP IS IN RUINS. HIS MACHINES ARE IN DANGER, SO HE HAS NO CHOICE...
...BUT TO COME TO US.

"LOCK DOWN THE FARM, GENERAL... THE WOLF IS IN THE CHICKEN COOP.
"THE SACRIFICES BEGIN NOW."


I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING. I KNOW IT.
NOT THAT MY ARM IS BROKEN. I CAN FEEL THAT.
FIRST THING I THINK I'VE FELT ALL DAY.
I HEARD ON A HAM WAVELENGTH THAT THE DEATH TOLL IS ESTIMATED AT OVER FOUR MILLION PEOPLE.
THE FIRST PROBE HIT TWO DAYS AGO.
WHY DO YOU CONTINUE THIS FUTILITY? YOU CANNOT STOP THE EARTH FROM SPINNING. YOU CANNOT STOP TIME FROM FLOWING.
SUPERMAN, YOU CANNOT STOP IMPERIEX.

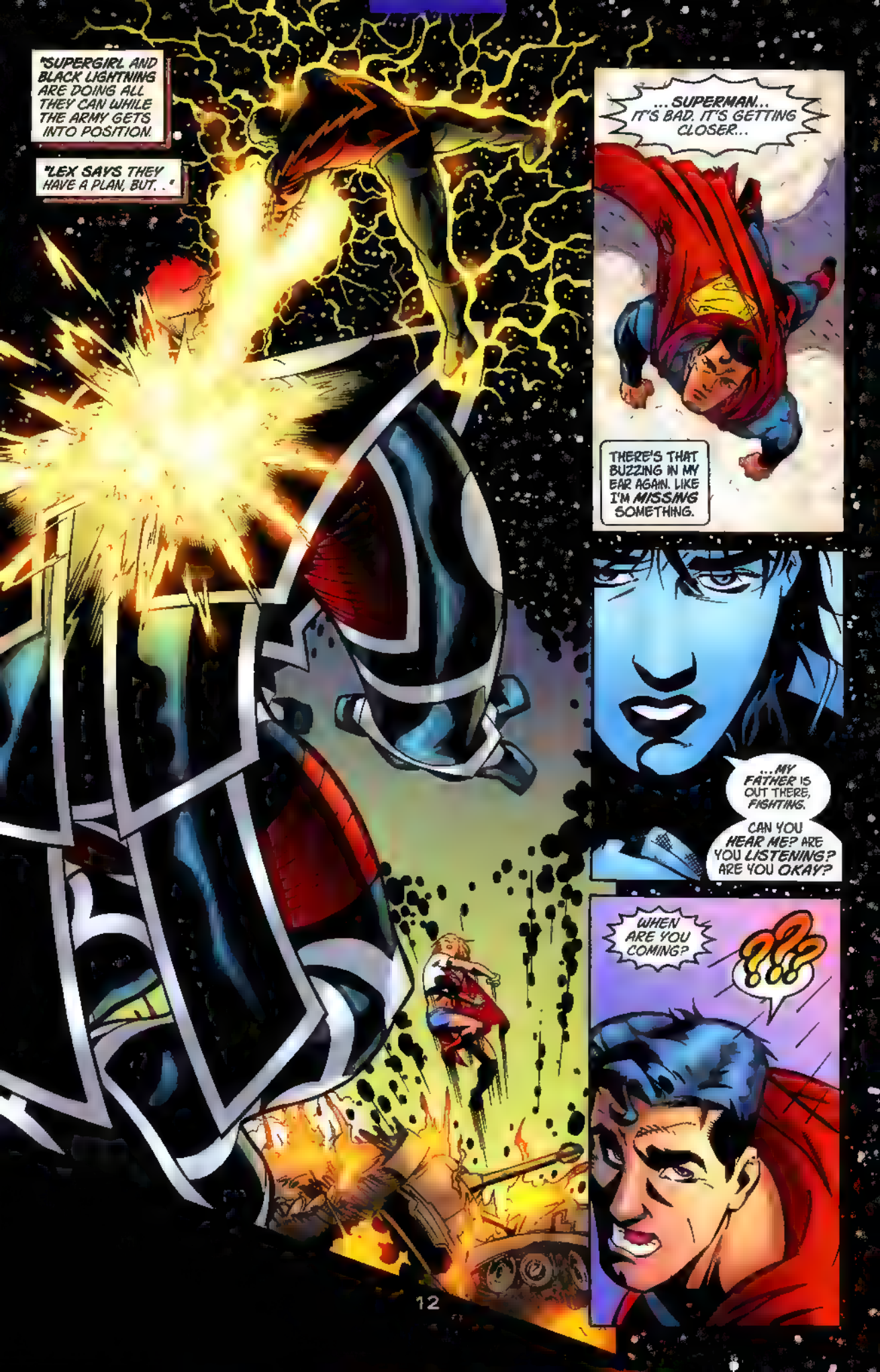
FOUR MILLION AND MORE EVERY SECOND... EVERY SECOND EQUALS MORE DEAD.
ARE YOU TALKING TO ME? GOOD.
LET'S TALK.
DRIVE ON. THERE'S WORK TO DO. DRIVE ON.

MEANWHILE, SPACE...
...WHERE THE BODIES OF FALLEN WARRIORS SEEM TO OUTNUMBER THE STARS.
THE LAST REFUGE OF MILLIONS OF DISPLACED AND WOUNDED, THE PARADOCS...
...BUCKLES UNDER ATTACK!
TWO OF THEM! OH MY GOD!
-- I NEED NEEDLES THAT PIERCE STEEL --!
-- JSA DOWNED THE HOME BASE. WHERE'S HE GOING TO GO --?
-- WHAT CAN I USE FOR VULDARIAN PLASMA --?
WHO'S GOT POWERS?! WEAPONS?!
THEY'VE BREACHED THE HULL. WE'RE GOING TO LOSE OXYGEN UNLESS WE STOP THEM, GREEN LANTERN! WE HAVE TO PROTECT THESE PATIENTS AND --
-- DIANA?
GREAT HERA! NO!
DIANA!

THE WHITE HOUSE...
YOU UNDERSTAND, MISS LANE, YOUR PRESENCE HERE IN THE MOST FORTIFIED FACILITY IN D.C. IS DUE TO ONE MAN.
I... I JUST GOT BACK TO EARTH FROM THE PARADOCS... I... WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE? WHAT DID YOU DO?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING EXCEPT IGNORE MY BETTER JUDGMENT FOR A FRIEND...
...YOUR FATHER, HOWEVER, JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE.
STILL FROSTY, SOLDIER?
... NEVER BETTER, LANE. COULDN'T STAND WEARING THAT DAMN TIE.
"LET'S SHOW THEM HOW THE OLD DOGS OF WAR DO IT, ROCKY."

SPACE.
IMPERIEX WILL NOT BE DENIED!
CREATURE, YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE HOW WRONG YOU ARE!

CAN YOU GRASP THAT YOU ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBSTRUCT A NATURAL -- A NECESSARY -- PROCESS?
FOCUS, CLARK. THAT'S WHAT PA WOULD SAY, THAT SIMPLE...
YOU SHOULD TAKE COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT YOU GARNERED MY ATTENTION. THAT THE WIND HAS STOPPED TO ADMIRE THIS BUTTERFLY.
...BUT PA IS MISSING. WITH MA. THEY'RE DEAD. I'M SURE OF IT
YOU CAN STRIVE FOR NO BETTER. YOU CANNOT KILL ME.
SUPERMAN DOESN'T KILL.
...EXCEPT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE I DIDN'T GET TO SAVE..
...AND THAT I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING...
SUPERMAN, THIS IS LOIS! I'M AT THE WHITE HOUSE.
I DON'T MEAN TO BE PICKY... I KNOW YOU'RE SAVING THE WORLD AND ALL, BUT WE'RE IN HOT WATER HERE...
SUPERMAN! SUPERMAN, THIS IS THE PRESIDENT. HE'S NOT RESPONDING... HE --
GIVE ME THAT -- SUPERMAN?! SUPERMAN?
I'M NOT SURE OF ANYTHING...


"SUPERGIRL AND BLACK LIGHTNING ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN WHILE THE ARMY GETS INTO POSITION.
"LEX SAYS THEY HAVE A PLAN, BUT. . ."
. . . SUPERMAN. . . IT'S BAD. IT'S GETTING CLOSER. . .
THERE'S THAT BUZZING IN MY EAR AGAIN. LIKE I'M MISSING SOMETHING.
. . . MY FATHER IS OUT THERE, FIGHTING.
CAN YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU LISTENING? ARE YOU OKAY?
WHEN ARE YOU COMING?
?!?!

DIANA.
"SUPERMAN?"
IT'S DIANA.
"SUPERMAN, PLEASE ANSWER ME... IT'S LOIS."

'PLEASE COME.'

COMMAND, I'M HITTING IT WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE AND --

SOMEONE CRACK THIS THING! I JUST NEED IT CRACKED AND I CAN..

NOT DIANA... NOT HER TOO..

LUTHOR'S ARMAMENTS ARE WORKING, SLOWLY. THEY NEED MORE TIME... MORE POWER..

DON'T HAVE IT. WON'T GET IT. BUT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING --

IT IS NUCLEAR, ISN'T IT? THE ENGINE IN THIS HEAP?

Y-YES, BUT --

THAT THING DOES NOT GET PAST US. UNDERSTAND? IT DOES NOT PASS US!

LIGHTNING! LISTEN TO ME --!

I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE.

I CAN'T...

MAJOR LANE! THAT'S SUICIDE! FALL BACK! THERE'S NO GUARANTEE..

...SAM, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I CAN --

IT'S FIFTY YARDS FROM THE PRESIDENT, SON! YOU CAN AND YOU WILL!

BUT YOU --

YOU WILL!

GET AWAY FROM HER!

HNNGH!

I'M SO LOST

PLEASE, GOD... TELL ME WHAT TO DO. TELL ME HOW TO FIGHT ON.

DO IT SAM! DO IT, DAMN YOU!

THANK YOU, SON...

...THANK YOU!

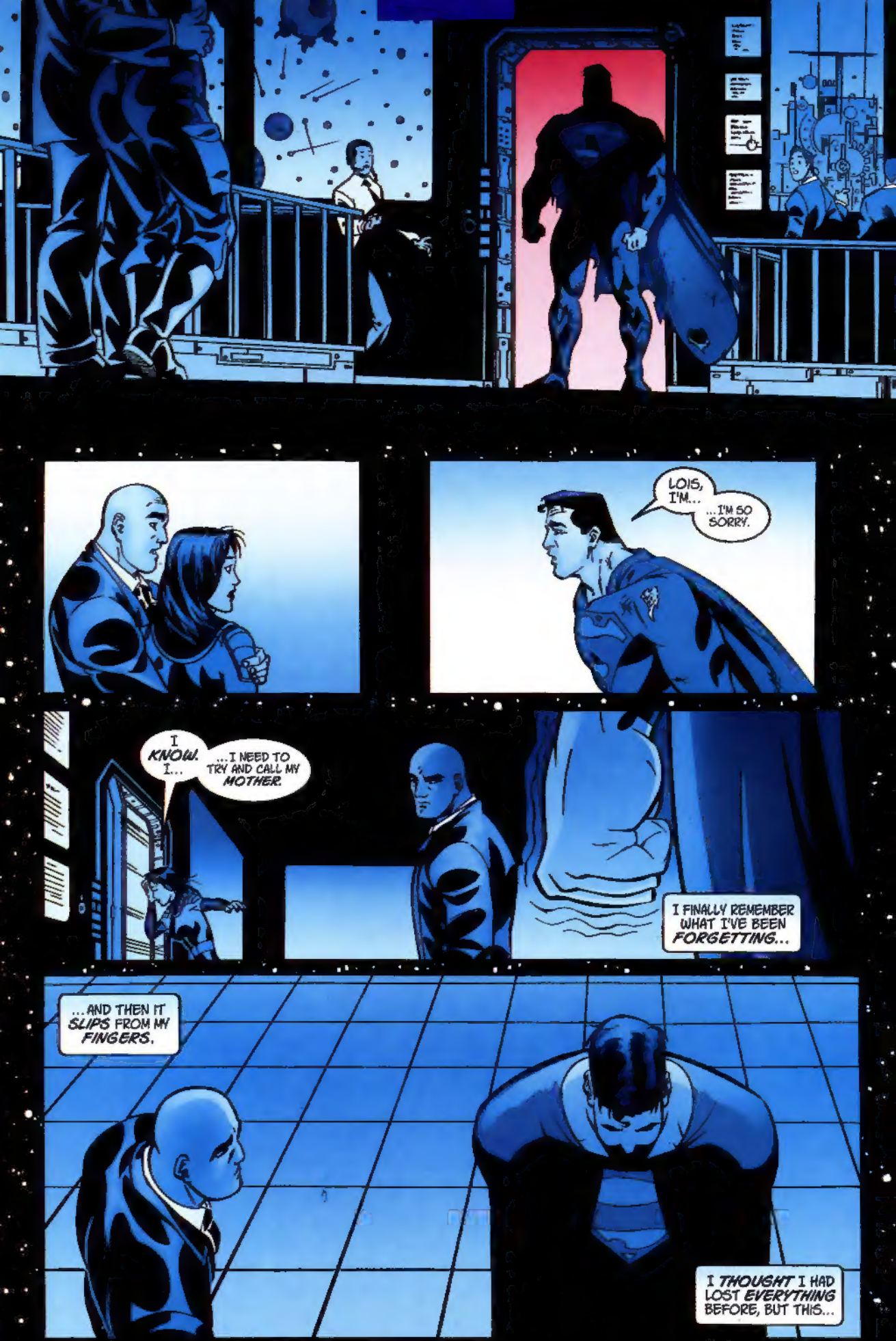
MOTHER.
SHE SAVED THEM. EVERYONE ON THE ARK... SHE DID IT TO SAVE THEM, AND ME...
...AND I TOLD HER SHE WASN'T WONDER WOMAN.
I'M SORRY, DIANA. I'M SORRY..
I'VE LOST EVERYTHING.
MY FRIENDS. MY FOCUS...
MY PARENTS. MY...
...GOD! LOIS!

DAD?
BE GOOD, KIDDO.
YEAAAAAGH!
KA-BOOM

SKREEEE
"HE... HE DETONATED THE NUCLEAR CORE OF THE TANK ... WE...
...MAJOR LANE STOPPED IT. STOPPED IT DEAD.

OH --
LOIS.
WHY DIDN'T HE --? HE DIDN'T COME.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHY DIDN'T HE COME?
I DON'T KNOW.

I'M SURE.. HE WOULD HAVE... UNLESS SOMETHING... INSURMOUNTABLE WAS IN HIS WAY
HE WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
BUT SOMETIMES, YOU FIND YOURSELF CAUGHT UP IN CIRCUMSTANCES... WHERE YOU CAN'T FOLLOW YOUR HEART, EVEN WHEN YOU WANT TO.
DUTY SOMETIMES COMES FIRST DUTY TO COUNTRY... TO WORK... HONOR.
WHAT YOUR FATHER JUST DID --
YOU WORK SO VERY HARD... TO DO WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT... AND SOMETIMES, AS A RESULT, THE PEOPLE WHO MEAN THE MOST SLIP THROUGH YOUR FINGERS.
I DON'T KNOW WHY SUPERMAN DIDN'T COME, LOIS, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS...
HIS HEART IS BREAKING FOR IT.
LOIS?


LOIS, I'M...
...I'M SO SORRY.
I KNOW. I...
...I NEED TO TRY AND CALL MY MOTHER.
I FINALLY REMEMBER WHAT I'VE BEEN FORGETTING...
...AND THEN IT SLIPS FROM MY FINGERS.
I THOUGHT I HAD LOST EVERYTHING BEFORE, BUT THIS...

...I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE FRIGHTENED IN MY LIFE.
I THOUGHT I KNEW HOW TO FIGHT A WAR.
I WAS WRONG.
LEX... EVERYTHING BETWEEN US... ASIDE...
...CAN YOU STOP THIS? CAN YOU STOP THIS DEATH?
YES, I BELIEVE I CAN.
YOU WON'T LIKE IT, THOUGH. IT WILL REQUIRE...
...SACRIFICE.
I KNOW HOW TO SACRIFICE.
BELIEVE ME.
TELL ME WHAT TO DO, MISTER PRESIDENT. WHATEVER IT TAKES TO WIN THIS...
...I'M YOURS.
TO BE CONTINUED IN SUPERMAN #173
CASUALTIES OF WAR!

# RE: ACTION

*PREVIOUSLY: Topeka, Kansas has been destroyed by a Probe from the cosmic entity known as Imperiex. All the citizens of Metropolis have been transported to a giant space ark that has been turned into a M.A.S.H. unit—Paradocs—to take care of all of the war casualties. The JSA has destroyed Imperiex's ship, preventing him from creating other Probes. Now, the few Probes that remain have two targets—Washington, D.C. and the Paradocs.*

Dear Actioneers:

The number 777 on a comic book isn't something you see very often (...the lone exception, according to the *Overstreet Price Guide*, being DELL FOUR COLOR # 777 featuring Walt Disney's Scamp in 1957), and you'd think it might have been a "lucky number" for Superman. But noooo! ACTION #777 was anything but, as poor Kal suffers the deaths of many innocents and an unthinkable amount of physical abuse at the "hands" of a tumor cut from his own body and given life and malevolent intelligence by a person or persons unknown! ...Somehow, I'm betting Uncle Walt's frisky pup fared better when he drew the "lucky sevens"!

Oh, and on the, uh... "topic of Kancer," a nice and appropriately gruesome design by Kano, with Kryptonite shards projecting from its body, not unlike the way Doomsday exhibited bone spurs!

**JOE TORCIVIA**
WESTBURY, NY

*The sevens did prove to be lucky for the man who created him, and what do you think of the dear General?*

Dear Super team,

Issue #777 was a great read, with the visuals and writing coming together very well. Kano especially put a lot of work into this issue. The drawings seemed bold, and a shout-out to the colorist for doing a great job with this issue.

I found the scenes in this issue rather disturbing, though, with all the bloody carnage left behind by Kancer. I guess I'm not used to seeing that in a Superman book, and while I don't think you should use stuff like that every issue, it did work for this particular story.

**SCOTT BREESE**
TORONTO, CANADA

*No, we don't plan on being gratuitous with the violence or being overly graphic, but we don't want to underplay or glorify it. We definitely want to show the danger in it, especially to those that aren't Superman.*

Dear Re: Action:

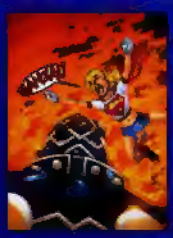
I think that #777 is the fastest issue of ACTION COMICS I've read since Joe Kelly came aboard. Usually, his books end up paced a little bit slower to allow for all the chattiness and punchlines. Issue #777 shows that Kelly is just as capable of writing some serious, gut-wrenching drama. This issue had a weight to it of impending doom throughout. It never let up and Kelly never dropped away from it for a second to go for a gag. Yes, there's a bit or two of humor in here, but it's a very different type, and very subtle. I admit that I'm just about completely lost as to who Kancer is working for and the whys and wherefores of what's going on. I assume that's what the next story is for. So long as that holds up, then this story fits in perfectly as the opening gambit for it.

**AUGIE DE BLIECK JR.**
NORTH HALEDON, NJ

*This is the case. We would have been surprised if you had guessed the identity of our true assassin.*


**ALL-OUT WAR CONTINUES THIS WEEK:**

WONDER WOMAN #172: See the tragedy of this issue from Diana's P.O.V.



SUPERGIRL #60: Follow the Probe's trail.

**CASUALTIES OF WAR Begins! NEXT WEEK:**

YOUNG JUSTICE #36: The team is shot down over Apokolips!

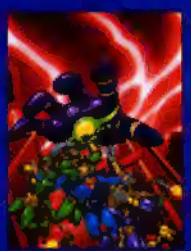
WONDER WOMAN: OUR WORLDS AT WAR #1: Remembering Hippolyta.

SUPERMAN #173: The Man of Steel makes a great sacrifice!

**IN TWO WEEKS:**

FLASH: OUR WORLDS AT WAR #1: The Scarlet Speedster races death!

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #595 The Man of Steel goes M.I.A.!



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**KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL**


Kano and Marlo Alquiza provide this month's cover with the somber hues of Richard and Tanya Horie.


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HA HA HA HA HA!!
LOOK AT THEM SCATTER!
THE ANTS! THE PITIFUL, MORTALESS LITTLE CREATURES.!!
THEY STRUGGLE THROUGH THEIR MEANINGLESS LIVES AND NEVER DREAM OF POWER.!!
POWER LIKE MINE!!
AN INVISKID SCAN!"